

all the churches of the district are represented these representatives carry home with them helpful thoughts and suggestions that tell for good.

Here for the first time it was our privilege to form the acquaintance of Dr. V. M. Reichard whose presence at the several sessions of the conference added very much to the interest and helpfulness of the meeting. To know Brother Reichard is to love him. Of course Brother Shaver was on hand ready for anything that was asked of him. Not since the conference at Meyersdale, Pennsylvania, many years ago had we the pleasure of meeting Brother Long who is now and for some time has been the pastor of the St. James charge. Brother J. M. Bowman of Harrisonburg, Virginia, also was present and his pleasant countenance and musical soul and voice were much appreciated by the conference. Of the new acquaintances formed the most pleasant memories remain, and to all of them we say a hearty "thank you" for the brotherly kindness and welcome extended us.

Sabbath after the conference we spent in Hagerstown and in the morning met Brother Tombaugh's congregation in their newly repaired chapel and in weakness brought to them the gospel message. Brother Tombaugh is loved by his own and other people and in him the cause of the Brethren church has a faithful representative in that city. He is laying broad and deep the foundation for a glorious work in Hagerstown, and tho the opposition is strong, and the difficulties are many, yet working in harmony with his people, he is gradually overcoming both. While in the city our home was with Sister Annie Emmert whose kindness and hospitality are known to all the Brethren and especially the ministers who have visited at her home. We also visited with Brother Shindel, the sisters Shindel and Brother Fahrney. All of these will please accept our thanks for the kindly treatment accorded us. It was our privilege to speak of the needs of Ashland College in these homes and with very little persuasion several pledges were taken.

Leaving Hagerstown on Monday noon for home we found that we must needs pass thru Meyersdale, the scene of our former labors, and naturally the attraction was too strong and when the place was reached stepped off the train. The first one to greet us was the ever smiling face of Brother Knepper, the efficient pastor of the Meyersdale church. About four miles out in the country is the home of our mother now almost eighty years of age, yet well preserved for one who has so nearly reached the fourscore. It was a great pleasure to meet with her as also with our brothers and sisters in the flesh. Brother Knepper had announced preaching and worship for each evening of the week, and the preaching he did while we did the visiting among our relatives and friends. The fact, however, that he did the preaching himself is not to be laid to his charge. Had we accepted his pressing invitations he would not have preached any during the whole week. Sabbath morning we met a large congregation, and with few exceptions, not an unfamiliar face in the audience. It was a great pleasure to us to meet with this people and we trust the pleasure was mutual. In the afternoon Brother Knepper administered the ordinance of Christian baptism to nine applicants, all of them young people, six boys and three girls. It was a beautiful sight to see these dear young people follow the Master in the sacred rite of baptism thus giving themselves early in life to the service of the Lord. May he ever keep them faithful and make their young life hopeful of great things. A very pleasant and en-

joyable communion closed the day's worship. Brother Knepper is building up a strong congregation in Meyersdale. He is beloved by all his people. Brethren Miller, Berkley, and Harry Cook and Sister Damm kindly remembered Ashland College by taking a pledge each.

Continued from page 13.

finale to the year's work of the Literary Societies.

The Commencement

The passing years serve only to deepen the interest in the College commencement and the night of graduation, Wednesday, June 5, found the College Chapel packed with an eager expectant audience who manifested the keenest appreciation of the exercises of the class of '01. The Chapel was tastefully decorated with potted plants, flowers, and College colors and the exercises were worthy of the occasion. What can be said here can give but a faint echo of what the assembled audience heard and felt under the evenings's song, eloquence, association. At eight o'clock, the class, preceded by the faculty and trustees who were present took their places on the platform. A pretty piano duet by Misses Bertha Gnagey and Tina Stence opened the program. The invocation by Rev. Dr. Dawson followed. "Little Boy Blue," a pathetically beautiful and touching song by the Ladies' Quartet, was then given, preparing the way for the class exercises.

According to custom the class chose from among their number four who were to appear on the commencement program. The first of these was Charles M. Holsinger, of Indiana, who read the "Class History." In a serio-humorous vein he told how much of the world's valuable history had been lost but for the labors of those who had recorded what at that time seemed matter of little consequence. He held that "thru the ages one increasing purpose runs," that not by chance nor by mistake of a careless fate, they, a glorious class, were placed at the beginning of the century; that the long majestic march of the ages had only led up to them; that they were a splendid manifestation of the eternal fitness of things, to which all past ages had contributed; that there always comes a time when true greatness is revealed to itself and that that time had now come to them. Mr. Holsinger then gave a brief history of each member of the class. The paper contained many apt allusions, witty suggestions, and was cleverly written and well delivered. Miss Esther Hiller, of Ashland, was chosen to give the class poem. This she rendered with pleasing manner and good effect. The poem was entitled, "The Better Day," and artistic skill in construction and was decidedly optimistic in tone. It set forth the idea that life is what we think and will it to be, and that we shall by hoping and willing banish evil and bring about the better day in which brotherhood, hope love and mercy shall prevail.

"Concrete Idealism" was the subject of the class oration, which Mr. F. B. Yoder, of Morrill, Kan., delivered in splendid manner with fine voice and pleasing gesture. The oration was carefully prepared and showed that the author was able to select the middle ground between extremes of opposing philosophic theory. The abstract idealism which takes men from the conflicts and busy activities of life is to be avoided. This is the error of those who today stand aloft from politics and social difficulties as it was of the hermits of the Middle Ages. To be avoided also is that gross materialism which knows only the material things of life. Between these extremes is concrete idealism, a life of noble service under the inspiration of the ideal, a life best exemplified by that of the Man of Galilee.

Last of the class exercises was the class prophecy, given by J. Harold Shidler. The scene was laid at Naples, Italy about 1924. Here Mr. Shidler purchases the "Note Book of an American Traveler," which turns out to have been the property of his class mate of twenty years ago at Ashland. In

this he finds the record of a lengthy telepathic communication between this class mate and another, Mr. E., then a citizen of Mars, who reveals interesting facts respecting the civilization of Mars and the eventful history of the class of '01. Mars' advanced civilization suggest remedies for the defects of our own, and varied good fortune has befallen the different members of the class, one of whom is then president of Ashland College, an institution of great power and renown. Mr. Shidler's paper contained some fine descriptions, was clever in plot and structure, was written with artistic literary finish and pleased while it held the marked attention of the audience.

The Class Address

After a splendidly rendered solo, "La Parlate D'Amoe," by Sadie B. Phillips, Pres. Miller introduced Rev. C. F. Yoder, of Warsaw, Ind., who delivered a most interesting and suggestive class address. Mr. Yoder has much of that simplicity and concreteness of expression characteristic of great literature and effective oratory, a style something like that of Emerson in which fine thought is expressed in apt analogy, striking suggestion, and brilliant metaphor. He spoke without notes, and only fragmentary and indistinct impressions of his address can be given here. The theme was the "Uses of Education". He congratulated the trustees on the work being done at Ashland, and the class on the success they had achieved. While the fathers had built edifices of brick and stone, they had built splendid parlors and palaces in their minds and opened new windows to the light, truth and beauty of the world. As to education, Socrates said that the purpose of it is to help us choose our pleasures wisely; Pres. Jordan says it is to free us from our environments; the Master said, "The truth shall make you free." Education is the means by which man has risen out of barbarism and obtained physical, intellectual and moral emancipation. Differing from the beast, he has an unquenchable longing after truth, and as this desire is satisfied he becomes free from the bondage of sin and ignorance. Man was once terrified by the lightening but he has learned to command and utilize the forces of nature. Truth is power and ever it has been the purpose of education to lead men to truth. The great part of the crime of the world is due not so much to evil will as to ignorance. Liberty comes only as men are able to appreciate and use it. Gun powder is not for children or battle-ships for barbarians. In this connection Mr. Yoder spoke of the work and value of the denominational college in giving lofty purpose and high moral tone to education, and lastly of the uses of education in its application to present problems. Our fathers solved the problems which came to them but ours are greater in number and complexity. The shaping of the future must necessarily lie with the college men and women and the class were urged to do their duty in the world as education had fitted them so that it might be the "joy of them all to have had a part in the happy consummation of the largest hope of humanity."

After a few appropriate remarks, Pres. Miller then presented diplomas to the graduates as follows: D. F. Eikenberry, Flora, Ind., Emma J. Craft, Ashland, O., Louise E. Gill, Nankin, O., Ora V. Bauman, Morrill, Kansas, Charles M. Holsinger, Oakville, Ind., Frank B. Yoder, Morrill, Kansas, Esther Hiller, Ashland, J. Harold Shidler, Red Haw, O., Florence A. Shanks, Olivesburg, O.; stenography, Della Kagey, Greenfield Mills, Ind., Lucie Saylor, Friedens, Pa., Mrs. W. D. Furry, Ashland; book-keeping, Geo. E. Gorz and Harry McCready, Ashland.

"Legends," a beautiful song by the Ladies' Quartet and the benediction by Rev. A. H. Smith of the city, closed the exercises, after which the friends of the graduates extended them many hearty congratulations both upon their successful completion of a course of study and upon the happy closing of a prosperous college year.